

Large fires can be distracting or dangerous to Forest visitors and they modify the recreation setting. Large fires could damage recreation facilities.

Roads provide access to both existing and potential developed recreation sites. The standard of road design and maintenance plays a definite role in determining the type of visitor, mode of transportation, and camping style. For instance, motor homes are limited by the type of access provided.

The existence of a road network greatly enhances some dispersed recreation opportunities, and the degree to which visitors can be dispersed in their pursuit of recreational activities.

The use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) is an issue that will be considered outside of the Forest planning process. The Malheur National Forest is currently developing a Travel Plan which will address this issue in detail. At this time, ORV use is prohibited in the Monument Rock and Strawberry Mountain Wilderness areas. Seasonal restrictions apply to Vinegar Hill scenic area, which is restricted to winter snowmobile use only. Other seasonal restrictions apply to specific areas during big-game hunting seasons, when a "green dot" system is used to designate open roads. Other site-specific vehicle closures may be implemented as deemed necessary for resource protection.

## 7 Roadless Areas

Under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE) process completed in 1973, roadless areas were identified on the Malheur National Forest. A second evaluation of roadless areas (RARE II) was initiated in 1976 and completed in 1979. This process identified 20 roadless areas on the Malheur National Forest that are being considered for roadless area management in this planning process.

With the conclusion of RARE II in January 1979, one area within the Forest boundary did not receive full public review. This area, Pine Creek, was recommended for further evaluation.

The majority of two roadless areas were added to the wilderness system by the Oregon Wilderness Act (1984): Monument Rock (6240) and Strawberry Addition (6238).

The Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 specified that the remaining 18 areas not be reviewed for wilderness designation during this planning process, except for Pine Creek. Roadless areas can be managed for semiprimitive recreation opportunities, which would maintain their suitability for future wilderness review.

Each of the 18 identified roadless areas is described in detail in Appendix C and listed in Table III-17. Figure III-14 shows the location of areas listed in Table III-17 (note that the numbers identifying each roadless area in fig. III-14 is the "RARE II Number" given in Table III-17).

### a *Relationship Between Forest Management and Roadless Areas*

The relationship of these areas to other resources depends on the type of management they receive.

Currently, three of these areas are managed to provide semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation. These areas are McClellan Mountain, North Fork of the Malheur River, and Greenhorn Mountain. Pine Creek is also being managed in this way while its wilderness suitability is being reviewed.

**TABLE III-17: Roadless Areas of the Malheur National Forest**

RARE II Number	Name	Acres
6231	Utley Butte	9,945
6232	Myrtle-Silvies	11,747
6233	Aldrich Mountain	4,951
6234	Malheur River	6,984
6235	Shaketable	7,137
6236	Dry Cabin	12,221
6237	McClellan Mountain	20,646
6239	Glacier Mountain	19,572
6241	North Fork Malheur River	18,276
6242	Baldy Mountain	6,431
6243	Dixie Butte	12,110
6244	Nipple Butte	11,525
6245	Fox Creek	5,879
6246	Flag Creek	7,789
6247	Cedar Grove	112
6248	Pine Creek	5,420
6251	Jumpoff Joe	4,006
6252	Greenhorn Mountain	16,197

Areas managed as semiprimitive, nonmotorized interact with other resources in much the same way as wilderness does. One exception is that these areas are not withdrawn from minerals development, although they may require special measures within the operating plans.

## 8. Scenery

The Forest provides a stunning backdrop for local communities and outstanding scenic variety. Scenic photos and descriptions of the Forest are used in local tourism literature. Forest visitors expect to see a natural-appearing landscape. This exists in most areas, even where resource management is occurring.

The majority of vehicle-oriented visitor use takes place in the roaded natural and roaded modified areas of the Forest. These areas contain roads that have been used for timber harvest. Sightseeing is second only to hunting as a popular dispersed recreation activity. Scenic quality within areas of resource development is clearly important. The landscape along many Forest roads is carefully managed to preserve that scenic quality.

In order to manage that landscape, the area which can be seen from the road is mapped. The area that would be seen after management activities is also considered. These mapped areas are called "corridor viewsheds."

The scenery along some roads is more important than that along other roads because of the number of drivers, the reasons people drive there, or other factors. Along those roads, the corridor viewshed includes both foreground and middleground. Foreground is an area within one-quarter to one-half mile of an observer, details of a landscape can be seen. Middleground extends 3 to 5 miles from the observer.

Table III-18 provides important corridor viewsheds on the Forest and the area in each one. The most sensitive corridors include both foreground and middleground acres. The location of these corridors is shown in Figure III-15. A discussion about interactions between management activities and scenery follows.